

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

GAC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 SCI-06 OIC-04 SS-15 RSR-01

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R 182225 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7565

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 1426

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN, UR

SUBJ: OUTER SPACE LEGAL: CHANGE IN SOVIET PRIORITIES

REF: USUN 1409

1. CHIEF SOVDEL PIRADOV STATED IN 18 APRIL AM LSC SESSION VIEW THAT DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES (DBS) HENCEFORWARD MUST SHARE EQUAL PRIORITY WITH TOM AND REGISTRATION, AND ANNOUNCED SOV INTENTION TO SUBMIT THEIR DBS DRAFT CONVENTION AS A WORKING PAPER TO THE LSC.

2. THE ABOVE SHIFT IN PRIORITY WAS REVEALED TO USDEL IN BILATERAL, REQUESTED BY SOVDEL AT CONCLUSION PM SESSION APRIL 17, TO DISCUSS LSC AGENDA ITEMS ON DBS AND REMOTE SENSING. SOVDEL SAID THEY ARE UNDER INSTRUCTION TO URGE DBS RECEIVE EQUAL PRIORITY. SOVDELOFFS ONCE MORE REITERATED WITHOUT EXPRESSING RATIONALE THAT REGISTRATION TREATY NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT AGREED TOM. USDELOFF REPLIED THAT IN US VIEW REGISTRATION AND TOM DESERVE CONTINUING PRIORITY AND THAT SOVDEL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SECURE REVISION OF ESTABLISHED OSC CONSENSUS RE AGENDA PRIORITY SHORT OF NEW UNGA INSTRUCTION TO THE OSC. USDEL STRESSED VIEW THAT PRESENT PRIORITY WOULD

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ULTIMATELY DO MORE TO ADVANCE BOTH SOV AND US INTERESTS THAN SUGGESTED SOV REVISION.

3. SOVDEL STATED APRIL 18 AM THAT THE LSC SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE FIVE "LEGAL PRINCIPLES" TO GUIDE REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES FIRST TABLED AT THE WORKING GROUP ON RS IN FEBRUARY. PRESUMABLY THIS IS IN ORDER TO MAKE THEM A MATTER OF RECORD AT CURRENT LSC SESSION.

4. COMMENT: SOVDEL SAID IN BILATERAL THEY WOULD THINK OF REASONS FOR SHIFT IN PRIORITY TO OFFER PUBLICLY LATER. THIS AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF UNCERTAINTY BY SOVDEL SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOV INSTRUCTION MAY HAVE BEEN DRAWN ON SUPPOSITION THAT TOM WOULD AT CLOSING OF CURRENT LSC SESSION BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED OR GOING FORWARD SATISFACTORILY, SINCE MOSCOW COULD NOT KAVE KNOWN (ABSENT ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN DEL OR INFO RE INDIAN INSTRUCTION) OF INDIAN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT ANY LANGUAGE DENYING INTENT TO IMPOSE MORATORIUM ON EXPLOITATION OF LUNAR RESOURCES IN ARTICLE X, TOM (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH NO DIRECT REPLY TO SOV PRIORITY STATE-MENT WAS MADE AT THIS AM LSC, SEVERAL DELS, INCLUDING UK AND CANADA, TOLD LSC IT SHOULD NOT ABANDON PRESENT PRIORITY AND COMMITMENT TO REG AND TOM. WE ALSO INTEND TO URGE PRESENT PRIORITY WITH FOCUS ON REG IN CONCLUDING STATEMENT 19 APRIL AM LSC SESSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN01426
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730459/abqcdzj.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 1409
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OUTER SPACE LEGAL: CHANGE IN SOVIET PRIORITIES
TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN, UR
To: STATE INFO MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005